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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 14, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Holiday Construction, Lime Ridge Mine, M/037/081, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: December 12, 2001  
Time of Inspection: 7:45 - 9:00 a.m.  
Conditions: Cloudy, intermittent light snow, less than an inch of snow on the ground  
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM; Jason Holliday came by as I was finishing the inspection

## **Purpose of Inspection:**

There was no specific reason for the inspection.

## **Observations:**

The best map I found of the site is one labeled Figure 1 in a submittal the Division received September 18, 2000. The disturbed area boundaries I found correspond very closely to those shown on this map, but the disturbed area does not match the stream channel on the map. This could be a problem with the coordinate systems or something similar where the GPS map does not fit precisely on the base map.

The ephemeral stream channel runs right to the uppermost reject pile but has to flow around it. It then goes across the county road and into a pit. There is a lower pit in the location where the stream channel would go, but unless the upper pit overflows, which I believe is unlikely, the lower pit would never get water from the stream. Instead, it receives water from immediately adjacent areas. Mr. Holliday said there was a major storm this past summer, and both pits contain sediment (see photos 2 and 3).

The plan indicates a culvert would be installed under the county road, but I did not see a culvert. In the place where the culvert would be, the road goes over bedrock.

There is no consolidated plan, but I found commitments in responses to the five reviews of the notice of intention. One of the requirements is that there would be a four-foot berm along the edge

of the county road near the pit, and there should also be signs indicating the hazard. I found neither a four-foot berm nor signs (photo 4, road is on the left).

There is a topsoil pile adjacent to part of the county road, and it is not shown on Figure 1. This pile and the one on the northeast part of the area have signs on them, but the pile on the west side of the site does not.

The operator committed to putting up an entrance sign, and although I was not looking specifically for this sign, I do not remember seeing it.

Another commitment is that the topsoil piles would be seeded. Although I could not tell whether they were seeded, they have little or no vegetation other than weeds. Unless the piles are going to be used very soon, they should be seeded again.

There is a lot of trash next to and on the easternmost topsoil pile (see photo 1). The trash includes old pallets and hydraulic oil buckets. Some of these buckets were empty, but some had oil.

The plan says there would be 2000 tons of overburden and 25,000 tons of stockpiled materials that would need to be regraded. I made a rough estimate of the volume and tonnage in one of the reject piles. Based on this estimate, I believe the tonnages in the plan are approximately correct (see photos 7 and 8).

To the south of the main operations area is an area labeled on Figure 1 as Mining Area (Old) Site C (see photos 5 and 6). Mr. Holliday indicated there is a chance this area could still be mined, but it would not be difficult to reclaim. There is minimal waste material, and the area is fairly flat.

There is a fuel tank on site that would hold about 600 gallons. There is no berm or other containment around the tank. There was some fuel in the tank, but it appeared to be less than half full. There was no generator, and there were no locks or any other security devices on the cap or the hose or nozzle.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The Division should reconsider allowing one or both of the pits to remain as ponds. If these are left, there would be few places to put the reject material. Since the San Juan River is only about a mile away, there is not a tremendous benefit to wildlife.

When the site is next inspected, the inspector should make better estimates of volumes of reject materials and estimate again whether the figures in the plan are accurate. The inspector should also check for any offsite damage from sediment and see whether there is an entrance sign.

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A sign needs to be placed on the topsoil pile(s) on the west side of the site, and the operator needs to install a berm and a warning sign where the county road is next to the pit. The topsoil piles should be reseeded unless they are going to be used soon.

The trash needs to be cleaned up. The plan indicates it is hauled out every night.

Although the operator committed to install a culvert across the county road, I do not believe a culvert would be beneficial. I also believe it would be very difficult to install because the road goes over bedrock in this area.

The Division's April 10, 2000, review asks for locations and methods for storing fuels and other related products on site during operations. The June 16, 2000, response to the Division's review says, "There is no fuel on the site. The gen has a 500 gal fuel tank that runs it stored". Based on this response, the Division did not ask for further information, but because there is fuel being stored on site, the operator needs to describe how it is being properly stored. Proper storage includes having a containment structure around the tank and having security devices, such as a lock.

The Division's April 3, 2001, conditional tentative approval said, "Therefore, as a condition of final approval of your large mine permit application, the Division will require that Holliday Construction submit one complete and consolidated mining and reclamation plan volume." The Division has never received this consolidated mine plan. The operator should submit this plan as soon as possible.

jb  
Enclosures  
cc: John Blake, SITLA  
m37-84ins.doc





Photo 1



Photo 2



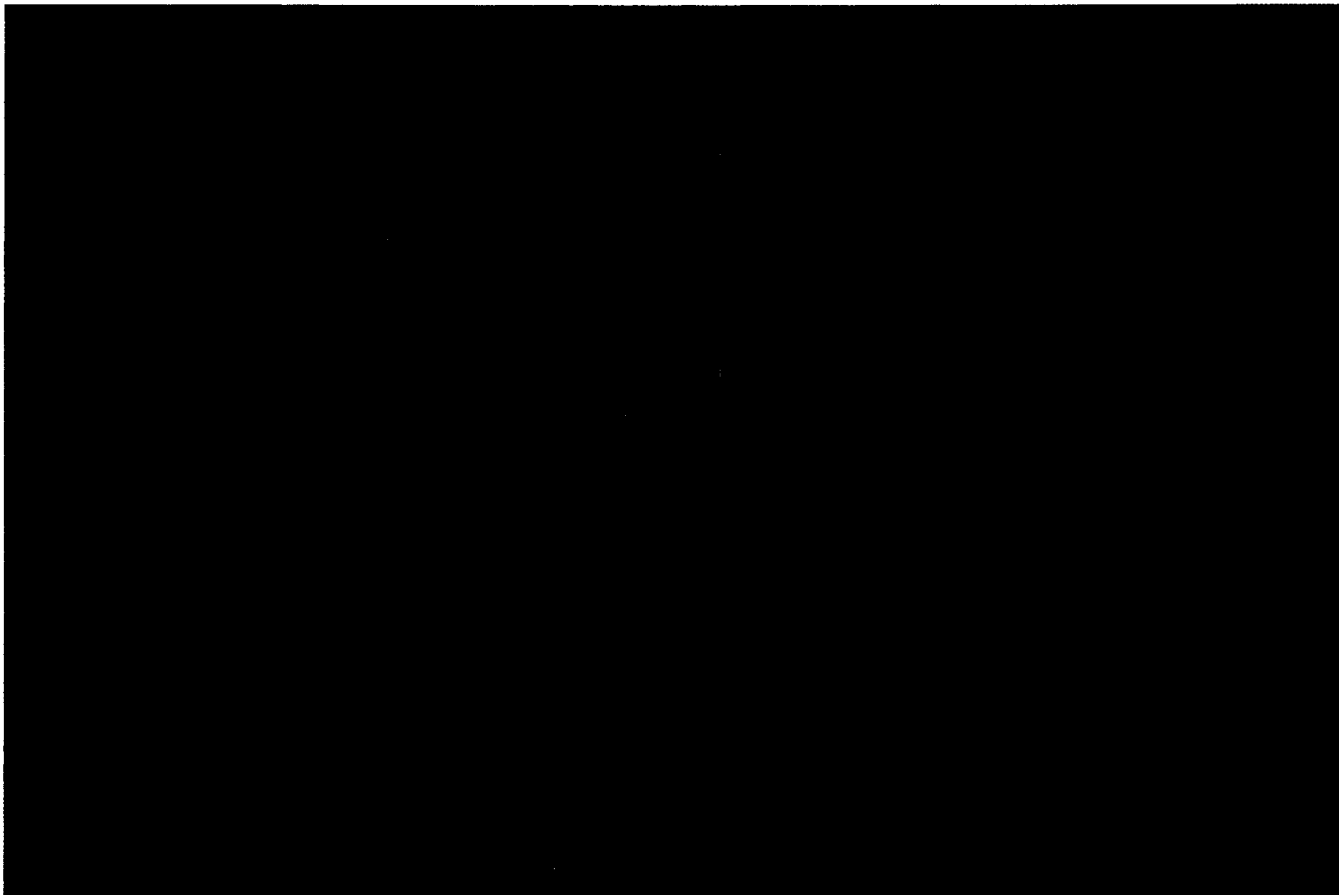


Photo 3



Photo 4





12/12/2001

Photo 5



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Photo 6





Photo 7



Photo 8